

Obituary Notices

F. A. BELAM, T.D., M.D., D.P.H.

Dr. F. A. Belam, for 28 years medical officer of health for Guildford and Godalming, Surrey, died on 7 February. He was 76.

Francis Arthur Belam, the eldest son of Commander Henry Belam, M.V.O., R.N., was born in Liverpool on 15 August 1890, and was educated at Oundle School and Liverpool University, graduating M.B., Ch.B.



with honours in 1913. His early appointments included those of house - surgeon and house-physician at the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool, in 1913-14, where he gained the university prize in diseases of children. He had joined the 1st West Lancashire

Field Ambulance of the R.A.M.C. in 1909, and on the outbreak of the first world war was gazetted lieutenant in the R.A.M.C. special reserve. He served throughout the war in Britain, France, and with the North Russian Expeditionary Force in Murmansk.

After demobilization with the rank of captain Dr. Belam proceeded M.D. in 1919, and took the D.P.H. in 1920. He was assistant school medical officer in Liverpool from 1919 to 1921, when he was appointed assistant medical officer of health to the City of Chester. In July 1923 he was appointed medical officer of health to the Borough of Brighouse and Urban District of Hipperholme, Yorkshire. Here his annual reports were considered a model of what a report should be. In 1927 he became medical officer of health to Guildford Borough and Rural District, and medical officer to Guildford, Godalming, and Woking Joint Hospital Board, in which position he remained until he retired in 1955. His work here in tracing the source of a poliomyelitis outbreak in 1952 received wide acclamation. He also instituted the Guildford Hygienic Food Traders Guild with much success.

He rejoined the Territorial Army in 1936 as medical officer to the 5th Battalion Queen's

Royal Regiment. In 1938 he was promoted lieutenant-colonel to command the 132nd Field Ambulance, and served with this unit until after the outbreak of the second world war, when he was posted as medical officer to troop ships and sailed 60,000 miles round Africa to India. In 1941 he was appointed to command the military isolation hospital in London, where he remained until demobilization, and then retired from the T.A. in 1949. He gained the Territorial Decoration with two bars.

Dr. Belam was always interested in anything to do with public health, as his many contributions over the years to the medical press illustrate. He led the investigation launched by a daily paper into the pollution of the seaside resorts' beaches by sewage. An active member of the British Medical Association all his life, he was president of the Surrey Branch in 1933, chairman of the Guildford Division in 1934, representative at the Annual Meetings of the B.M.A. from 1948 to 1963, and honorary secretary of the Guildford Division from 1948 to 1964. He was made a Fellow of the British Medical Association in 1959, and became chairman of the conference of honorary secretaries in 1960. He was also a very keen member of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and was president of the Home Counties Branch in 1956. He served on the Services group of this society for many years, and was president of it in 1950-1. He was a member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, becoming a Fellow in 1947, and was also a Rotarian and president of the Guildford Rotary Club in 1951. For some years he was the county medical officer of the Surrey Branch of the British Red Cross Society, and took an active part in the Surrey Voluntary Association for the Care of Cripples. In every way Dr. Belam's life showed his devotion to his chosen profession and especially to the promotion of a wider public interest in hygiene and the prevention of disease. His many and varied activities with voluntary associations and societies serve as an example to all, and when ill-health forced him to retire from this work his loss was keenly felt.

Dr. Belam married in Liverpool in 1915 and leaves a widow, two sons, one of whom is in the medical profession, and a daughter.

R. JOHNSTON, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Dr. R. Johnston, general practitioner, of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, died in hospital on 26 January. He was 68.

Robert Johnston was born in Ireland, in Monaghan, on 3 January 1899. He entered Queen's University, Belfast, to read medicine in 1915, but his studies were interrupted by the war and he saw service in the Royal Navy. Returning to his university after demobilization in 1919, he graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1922. Two years later he came to England and set up in general

practice in Liverpool. In 1929 the move to Ellesmere Port was made, and he took over the practice of Dr. W. Lascelles. He was married to Joan Wallis in 1933. He was part-time medical officer to the Shell Refinery from 1930 to 1942, when he again put on uniform and joined the R.A.M.C. Almost all his service was in the Far Eastern theatre. After demobilization he returned to his practice, and continued there until his retirement in 1963.

Always keenly interested in the St. John

Ambulance Brigade, he took an active part in their activities, becoming divisional surgeon and later corps surgeon. In 1950 he was awarded the long service medal and bar, and in 1956 he was made a Serving Brother of the Order of St. John. An active and greatly valued member of the Birkenhead and Wirral Division of the British Medical Association and for many years a member of the executive committee, he was elected vice-chairman of the Division in 1952-3, chairman in 1955, and the following year president of the Merseyside Branch. Robert Johnston was perhaps small in physical stature, but his great integrity and his immense moral and indeed physical courage made him a veritable giant among men. The practice of medicine was an integral part of his life, and the "isolation" of the general practitioner was never allowed to prevent him from keeping abreast of the advances in medical practice. His many years of devoted service to his patients were reflected in the very high regard they all had for him. A devoted family man and a passionate gardener, his beautiful garden was the envy, and it must be admitted sometimes the despair, of his less skilful friends. As a family doctor and as a man Robert Johnston epitomized all the finest qualities. We shall miss him greatly, but we are very much richer for having been privileged to know him.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters, and to them we extend our profound sympathy.—D. A. P. C.

J. G. DOBSON, D.S.O., B.SC., M.B. CH.B., D.P.H.

Dr. J. G. Dobson, a general practitioner at Duns, Berwickshire, died at his home on 22 January after an illness borne with true stoicism.

John Greenlaw Dobson was born in Edinburgh in 1892, and was educated at George Heriot's School and Edinburgh University, where he graduated B.Sc. in 1913 and M.B., Ch.B. in 1915. He served in the Royal Navy during the first world war, and was awarded the D.S.O. following an action in the White Sea campaign in 1918, when he continued to tend the wounded despite serious injuries, including the loss of an eye. His intended career as a surgeon at an end, he took the D.P.H. in 1919 and entered general practice at Chirnside in 1923 and at Duns in 1932.

A man of fine bearing, keen discernment, and quiet humour, he formed with many patients deep and lasting friendships they are proud to recall. His interests—fishing, painting, cello-playing, and the study of Greek—were pursued with pleasure and skill. He evoked from his practice an intense loyalty, to which he responded all his life with sincere consideration and respect.

To his widow and family his many friends and colleagues extend their sympathy.—B. A.

F. NOY, M.D.

Dr. F. Noy, a general practitioner at Stoneleigh, Surrey, died in hospital in London on 20 January. He was 63.

Fred Noy was born in Weinheim, near Mannheim, Germany, on 6 April 1903, and received his medical education at Heidelberg and Rostock Universities, graduating M.D. in 1929. He was established as a young practitioner in Mannheim when he fled the country on being warned of imminent arrest during the Nazi regime. His mother and brother with their family were killed in concentration camps. From 1934 to 1937 he worked in France, and in 1937 moved to Calcutta, where he was engaged in private practice over the next 10 years. During this time he established a practice of high repute. He developed a wide circle of friends, and his opinion and counsel were held in high regard. He adopted British nationality in Calcutta in 1947. He came to England and in 1950 started in general practice in Stoneleigh, Surrey. With all the difficulties of the immediate post-war years, and starting from scratch, he rapidly established a successful practice with the devoted support of his wife.

Fred Noy was a man who was utterly wrapped up in his work. Apart from his friendships, which meant much to him, he had few outside interests. Among these, he loved to travel—sometimes near, sometimes far—to return to his beloved work refreshed by his experiences. He had no children of his own, but for the children of the practice had a very soft spot in his heart. The elderly had reason to remember his kindness, gentleness, and compassion—a reflection of his love of his own parents, who met such barbarity and evil at the hands of mankind. He was a generous man, full of good humour, and was exceedingly good company, as all who knew him will testify. Here in England he felt safe, happy, and at home.

Patients, colleagues, and friends all miss him, but are the richer for sharing and being touched by his attributes. To his wife we extend our deepest sympathy.—I. H. W.

T. M. MILLER, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dr. T. M. Miller, a former general practitioner in Tunbridge Wells, died at his home in Southborough on 24 January. He was 81.

Thomas Mackinlay Miller was born in London on 23 July 1885. He received his medical education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and qualified with the Conjoint diploma in 1908. In November of the same year he was appointed house-surgeon at Tunbridge Wells General Hospital, and after that senior resident medical officer at the hospital for another year. He then went to sea as a ship's doctor for two years with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and Allan Lines. During the first world war he held a commission in the R.A.M.C., and served with the Devonshire Regiment in France and Italy. He was awarded the Military Cross and was twice mentioned in dispatches.

After demobilization he took up further hospital appointments before returning to Tunbridge Wells as a general practitioner in 1925, where he remained until his retire-

ment in 1958. In 1927 he was appointed honorary anaesthetist at the hospital, which post he held until the retiring age in 1945, when he became honorary consultant anaesthetist. He was chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Division of the British Medical Association in 1931-2, and continued to be a regular attender at B.M.A. meetings until his retirement.

Dr. Miller loved his work and was very popular with his colleagues as well as his patients. He was always ready for a friendly argument, and was a much-loved figure at the Kent and Sussex Hospital. He had a large general practice, and when he retired many of his patients joined in expressing their appreciation of his services with presentations to him and his wife. To his widow, his son, and daughter we express our deepest sympathy.—B. H.

**F. P. FREEMAN, M.C., L.A.H.
L.R.C.P.&S.I., L.M.**

Dr. F. P. Freeman died on 2 February, having been in practice in Lutterworth until the onset of his last illness in 1965. He was 79.

Francis Percy Freeman, son of David Freeman, and the eldest of six children, was born in Dublin on 6 March 1887, and obtained the L.A.H. in 1914. Almost immediately volunteering for service with the R.A.M.C., he was in France as early as November in that year, and served on the same front throughout the greater part of the war, most of the time in the front line. A member of the crew of one of the first tanks to go into action at Hulluch, near Neuve Chapelle, he was later wounded. Mentioned three times in dispatches, he was decorated with the Military Cross and subsequently with a bar to the medal, and was reported to have been recommended for the Victoria Cross for especial bravery. He took the L.R.C.P.&S.I. in 1917.

Immediately after the Armistice he was in Sierra Leone for two years with the 4th West African Rifles, and he was then transferred to the Colonial Service, in which he spent eight years in Uganda. There he met and married his wife Phyllis, the daughter of the late W. F. Price, of Kirby Muxloe, Leicester. Retiring from the Service for health reasons, he entered general practice in Steeple Bumpstead, in Essex, remaining for seven years before moving to Lutterworth in 1938, where for much of the next 27 years he was the senior practitioner in the area.

Frank Freeman was a country practitioner of much character and of a type that is all too soon passing away. In his early days he had been a golfer with a scratch handicap and a member of the three-quarter line in a former Irish rugby trial, but his abiding interest was in horses in all their aspects. On many winter occasions he had used his horse for visiting his more inaccessible patients. Never to be seen without his button-hole and rarely in anything but a tweed suit, Frank Freeman was a typically genial son of Ireland, a man of wit and good companionship, abstemious in his own habits but tolerant of the wishes of his friends. Educated at the Jesuit College in Dublin, he was a man of firm faith to the end, and even in his busy days in practice rarely missed

his daily morning visit to his church. After a lengthy and often painful illness, and sometimes with occasional serious problems during his active life, he died as he had lived, hopeful and trusting, and in the care of his wife, who survives him with their two sons and seven grandchildren.—E. R. F.

**H. L. CONNOR, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.
L.M.**

Dr. H. L. Connor, who until recently was in practice at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, died suddenly at his home near Truro on 25 December. He was 57.

Herbert Lionel Connor was born on 1 February 1909, and received his medical education at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1934 and gaining the L.M. at Coombe Hospital, Dublin, the following year. Among his early appointments were those of house-surgeon at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, and gynaecological registrar at Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool. At the outbreak of the second world war he joined the R.A.M.C. and served in France; he was evacuated from Dunkirk and mentioned in dispatches. He subsequently served in Burma and India, where he commanded a general hospital. He was demobilized in 1950 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel and then went to Catterick Camp. After a period as a civilian medical officer attached to the Military Hospital he set up in general practice at Catterick Camp. His busy and exacting practice was largely connected with the families of serving Army officers and men, and he maintained close connexions with the R.A.M.C., being attached to the obstetric department at the Military Hospital. He was held in high esteem by successive generations of medical officers, as well as by his civilian colleagues and his many friends.

Of a quiet and rather retiring disposition, Bertie had a strong, typical Irish wit. His brogue never left him, and many who knew him must remember the moment when the eyes lit up, the pipe was removed from the mouth, as a slow smile spread across his face, and, hesitantly at first, he began relating one of his many amusing experiences. Over the last two years he continued to practise with great fortitude, being then a sick man, but, true to type, he would not admit it. In September 1966 he decided to retire, and went to live near Truro. There it was that he died on Christmas Day, after a very brief but very happy few months of rest.

He leaves a widow whose help to him, especially over the last few years, has been immeasurable, and a son who is reading medicine at Cambridge. To them we extend our heartfelt sympathy.—E. L. R. McC.

**C. H. HUTCHINSON, M.A., M.B.
B.CH., B.A.O.**

Dr. C. H. Hutchinson, a general practitioner in Plymouth, died suddenly at his home in Plympton on 1 February. He was 60.

Cuthbert Henry Hutchinson, son of a Methodist minister, was born at Clonakilty,

County Cork, on 4 December 1906. Educated at Wesley College and Trinity College, Dublin, he graduated B.A. in the University of Dublin in 1929, and M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1931. He took the M.A. in 1933. From 1931 to 1934 he was in resident hospital appointments and general practice in England, and from 1934 to 1935 he was an assistant medical officer in Plymouth City Hospital. After two further years in general practice at Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, he returned to Plymouth, where he spent the rest of his life in general practice. From 1937 to 1948 he was a consultant anaesthetist at Plymouth City Hospitals. Rejected for the Forces for health reasons in 1940, he was able to render service during the Plymouth air raids that followed.

In 1935 Dr. Hutchinson married Dr. Lucy Ashton Edwards, who survives him, together with their son, Dr. D. B. A. Hutchinson, partner in his father's practice at Plymouth. —O. H. E.

A. I. STEYN, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Dr. A. I. Steyn, a general practitioner at Portsmouth, Hampshire, died at his home on 29 November 1966. He was 71.

Arthur Isaac Steyn was born on 17 January 1895 and received his medical education at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating M.B., B.Ch. in 1920. Shortly after graduation he settled in Portsmouth, where he built up a distinguished practice. A man wise in years of experience, he was to his patients more than a doctor, he was their friend and confidant. Beloved of all, his like are becoming rarer. He will be mourned by many friends. He leaves a widow and two sons (one a doctor), to whom our deepest sympathies are extended.—J. C. P.

RAGNHILD GULBRANSEN

Miss Ragnhild Gulbransen, a medical research worker in Britain during the first world war, died in Norway on 18 December 1966, at the age of 92.

Professor C. H. BROWNING writes: On first acquaintance this most gifted medical laboratory worker appeared a fragile, small person. But soon one was impressed by her wide general and biological culture, faculty for humorous expression, indomitable energy, both mental and physical, and deep devotion to duties, friends, and causes. She never qualified in medicine, though she had studied in Chicago and worked there with Hektoen and Gideon Wells, the pathologists. When in 1905 Norway separated from Sweden and war threatened she hastened home. The chance to continue systematic studies never offered again.

In 1906 she went to Frankfurt with an introduction from Hektoen to Paul Ehrlich. The Georg-Speyer Haus had recently been founded to enable him to pursue research on chemotherapy. Miss Gulbransen was made a member of the staff, where I met her. At this time the organic arsenicals were being developed, which culminated in salvarsan. She investigated chiefly the chemotherapy of experimental trypanosomiasis and mouse

spirochaetosis (*Spirillum minus*). The adaptation of the latter which rendered it a reliable test-object was due to Miss Gulbransen. Ehrlich soon placed the greatest confidence in her results. So when he included syphilis in his programme her finding that the highly refractory *Sp. minus* infection was more sensitive to salvarsan than any other drug decided that it should be the foremost used by Hata in rabbits infected with *Treponema pallidum*.

In the war of 1914 it soon became clear that the old surgical antiseptics failed in the treatment of infected wounds. Accordingly an urgent search for more effective compounds as surface antiseptics was indicated. On the basis of earlier work with W. Gilmour we determined to explore the aminoacridine dye called by Ehrlich "trypaflavin"—later known as acriflavine—owing to its trypanocidal action in mice. I appealed to Miss Gulbransen for help, and she at once came from Norway to London with the support of a research grant from the Medical Research Council. Early in 1917 the first results, obtained at the Middlesex Hospital, London, jointly with her, E. L. Kennaway, and L. H. D. Thornton, appeared in this journal (*Brit. med. J.*, 1917, 1, 73). She retired from the Council's service in 1936 with the status and allowance of a staff member—marks of appreciation which gave her much pleasure. I cannot express adequately what Miss Gulbransen's co-operation in London and at Glasgow University meant for our work.

Sir DENIS BROWNE, K.C.V.O., M.B. F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S.

Dr. DOUGLAS STEPHENS, F.R.A.C.S., writes from Australia: The tall, adventurous Captain Sylvester Browne, of Galway, Ireland, father of nine and grandfather of Sir Denis Browne, sailed his own ship to Australia in 1831, settling first in Sydney and then in Melbourne. His two sons became distinguished Australian citizens. Sylvester, the younger of the two sons and father of Denis, was 6 ft. 6 in. in height and a pioneer of repute in mining and pastoral spheres. Denis (obituary, 21 January, p. 178) was born in Melbourne in 1892, and after nine years of country life on the grassy banks of the Yarra River, now part of the inner suburb of Toorak, moved to Singleton, New South Wales, where his father bought and ran the vast sheep station called "Minembah." There Denis enjoyed the boyhood country life of the "outback" of Australia for four years. He played a lone hand at King's School, Paramatta. Even in those days he was a determined individualist. As well as being academically very able he obtained "blues" for tennis and shooting and showed more than average talents in athletics and billiards as an undergraduate. Tennis was to be his main lifelong interest. He was senior student in his final year at Sydney University and one of a small group who sat for an early special war examination in November 1914, the remainder graduating at the normal time in March 1915.

On graduation Denis joined the 13th Light Horse Regiment of the A.I.F. as medical

officer and went hotfoot to Gallipoli. His other three brothers also joined the Services, and one was killed at Gallipoli. After a few months in the trenches he was invalided to Alexandria with enteric fever, returned to Australia, quickly recovered, and thence early in 1916 went to France to serve in field ambulances, rising to the rank of major. On demobilization he elected to live, train, succeed, and die in England. He returned to Australia but once, as guest lecturer in paediatric surgery in 1965. He received at that visit an honorary fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the highest honour which the college could bestow.

Denis's forefathers exhibited strong qualities of physical stature, adventure, leadership, courage, and scholarship, and it was his good fortune to inherit all in good measure. Wolko, meaning in Aboriginal language "big man," was Denis's third name, appropriate to him as a 10-lb. baby and as a man among men of his time.

J. BAMFORTH, M.D., F.R.C.P. F.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Professor H. A. MAGNUS writes: When in 1958 I asked Joe (obituary, 18 February, p. 434) to come to King's as Shepherd research fellow he said he would like to think the matter over. After a few days he came to see me and said he would accept the position, but under one condition, and that was that I must clearly understand that he was a Thomas's man and always would remain a Thomas's man, and coming to another teaching hospital would not alter that. This was, of course, a typical example of Joe's devotion to his old hospital. However, it was not long before this delightful old man had made friends with everyone, and it was a pleasure to see him sitting in the staff common-room at lunch-time hiding behind his newspaper, which every so often shook as he laughed at some remark. He had a puckish sense of humour, and I never heard him say anything unkind about anyone. It is good to think that he lived to see the publication of his book and the appointment of his son to a consultant physician's post. Joseph Bamforth was almost the last of the great clinical pathologists, and he taught us a great deal during the three years he was with us.

A. G. MELROSE, M.D., F.R.C.P. GLASG. F.R.C.P. ED.

I. A. C. writes: The untimely death of Andrew Melrose (obituary, 11 February, p. 369) will be grievously felt by a large number of colleagues, friends, nurses, and students. As a friend and colleague he was of the very best—utterly reliable and respected. A tall upright man, he was kindly and courteous, with a quiet sense of humour along with many other qualities so often absent in those he left. From the onset of his sudden illness he was under no illusions; he knew that his days were numbered, and few know how bravely he faced the end. He had a great joy and happiness in his family and home.